GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1605
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
KAILASH MANASAROVAR YATRA
SHANKERSINH VAGHELA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to construct/explore any short route for the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken for the safety of the pilgrims?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a)-(b): The Kailash Manasarovar Yatra, along the traditional route across Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh District of Uttaranchal, is coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs and conducted with the assistance of various Central and State Government agencies.

Government of India proposed to the Chinese side on several occassions an alternate route to Kailash Manasarovar through Demchok in Jammu & Kashmir. The Chinese side recently conveyed that it would not be feasible to open an alternate route through Demchok on account of poor road conditions, frequent landslides, high altitudes and lack of infrastructure in that uninhabited remote region of Tibet. The Chinese side also conveyed that they had examined other alternatives, but none of them had been found feasible due to rapidly changing natural and weather conditions.

(c): Facilities provided by the Government for safety of the pilgrims include free medical inspection and assistance; security and escort cover upto Lipulekh Pass; insurance cover and communication links for the duration of the Yatra.; and deputation of a Liaison Officer with each batch of Yatris.